

What is claimed is:

- 1) A spinal fluid collection system for use by a medical professional for collecting, from a spinal tap into a plurality of CSF tubes, multiple samples of cerebrospinal fluid from a patient, comprising, in combination:
 - a) a plurality of CSF tubes structured and arranged to receive, seal, and transport cerebrospinal fluid;
 - b) at least one spinal tap assembly structured and arranged to tap into the patient to obtain a flow of cerebrospinal fluid; and
 - c) a holder structured and arranged to stably hold said CSF tubes when said holder is in an upright position;
 - d) wherein said holder comprises a handle structured and arranged to assist single-hand manipulation of said holder by the medical professional during the collecting of the cerebrospinal fluid directly from said spinal tap into said CSF tubes, when held by said holder, in a continuing manner without the need to grasp any said CSF tube during the collecting.
- 2) The spinal fluid collection system according to Claim 1 further comprising a sealed internally-sterile package sealing said holder and said CSF tubes.
- 3) The spinal fluid collection system according to Claim 2 wherein said package further seals at least one said spinal tap assembly.

- 4) The spinal fluid collection system according to Claim 1 wherein said handle is structured and arranged to be grasped by either a right hand or a left hand of the medical professional.
- 5) The spinal fluid collection system according to Claim 1 wherein said holder is structured and arranged to stably hold, when said holder is in an upright position, any element selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a spinal needle;
 - b) a spinal needle sleeve;
 - c) a spinal needle stylette;
 - d) a spinal needle sleeve holding a spinal needle;
 - e) a spinal needle sleeve holding a spinal needle and a stylette.

- 005001-4EE0260
- 6) The spinal fluid collection system according to Claim 5 wherein:
- a) said holder is structured and arranged to stably hold four of the CSF tubes when said holder is in an upright position;
 - b) wherein said holder is structured and arranged to stably hold, when said holder is in an upright position, at a first portion of said holder any such element selected from such group; and
 - c) wherein said holder is structured and arranged to stably hold, when said holder is in an upright position, at a second portion of said holder any such element selected from such group.
- 7) The spinal fluid collection system according to Claim 6 wherein said holder further comprises:
- a) four first vertical cavities each structured and arranged to support one of the CSF tubes; and
 - b) at least two second vertical cavities each structured and arranged to support any such element selected from such group.
- 8) The spinal fluid collection system according to Claim 5 wherein said holder comprises an essentially-transparent plastic material.

- 005034-4EE650
- 9) The spinal fluid collection system according to Claim 8 wherein said handle is structured and arranged to be grasped by either a right hand or a left hand of the medical professional.
 - 10) The spinal fluid collection system according to Claim 7 wherein:
 - a) said first and second vertical cavities are arranged along a horizontal longitudinal row, having a midpoint, of said holder; and
 - b) said handle is essentially horizontal and symmetrical with respect to such midpoint.
 - 11) The spinal fluid collection system according to Claim 10 wherein said handle comprises the furthest longitudinal horizontal extensions of said holder.

- 12) A spinal fluid collection system for use by a medical professional for collecting, from a spinal tap into a plurality of CSF tubes, multiple samples of cerebrospinal fluid from a patient, comprising:
- a) a holder structured and arranged to stably hold the CSF tubes when said holder is in an upright position;
 - b) wherein said holder comprises a handle structured and arranged to assist single-hand manipulation of said holder by the medical professional during the collecting of the cerebrospinal fluid directly from the spinal tap into the CSF tubes, when held by said holder, in a continuing manner without the need to grasp directly any of the CSF tubes during the collecting; and
 - c) wherein said holder is structured and arranged to stably hold, when said holder is in an upright position, any element selected from the group consisting of
 - i) a spinal needle
 - ii) a spinal needle sleeve
 - iii) a spinal needle stylette
 - iv) a spinal needle sleeve holding a spinal needle
 - v) a spinal needle sleeve holding a spinal needle and a stylette.

- 13) The spinal fluid collection system according to Claim 12 wherein:
- a) said holder is structured and arranged to stably hold four of the CSF tubes when said holder is in an upright position;
 - b) wherein said holder is structured and arranged to stably hold, when said holder is in an upright position, at a first portion of said holder any such element selected from such group; and
 - c) wherein said holder is structured and arranged to stably hold, when said holder is in an upright position, at a second portion of said holder any such element selected from such group.
- 14) The spinal fluid collection system according to Claim 13 wherein said holder further comprises:
- a) four first vertical cavities each structured and arranged to support one of the CSF tubes; and
 - b) at least two second vertical cavities each structured and arranged to support any such element selected from such group.
- 15) The spinal fluid collection system according to Claim 12 wherein said holder comprises an essentially-transparent plastic material.

- 16) The spinal fluid collection system according to Claim 15 wherein said handle is structured and arranged to be grasped by either a right hand or a left hand of the medical professional.
- 17) The spinal fluid collection system according to Claim 14 wherein:
- a) said first and second vertical cavities are arranged along a horizontal longitudinal row, having a midpoint, of said holder; and
 - b) said handle is essentially horizontal and symmetrical with respect to such midpoint.
- 18) The spinal fluid collection system according to Claim 17 wherein said handle comprises a horizontal plate comprising the furthest horizontal extensions of said holder in at least two directions.
- 19) The spinal fluid collection system according to Claim 17 wherein said handle comprises the furthest longitudinal horizontal extensions of said holder.

- 20) A spinal fluid collection system for use by a medical professional for collecting, from a spinal tap into a plurality of CSF tubes, multiple samples of cerebrospinal fluid from a patient, comprising the steps of:
- a) providing a CSF-tube holder having a handle and needle-holder to stably hold a spinal needle assembly;
 - b) arranging at least three open CSF tubes in said holder;
 - c) inserting a spinal needle containing a stylette between a patient's vertebrae until a tip of the spinal needle reaches a dural space;
 - d) removing said stylette from said spinal needle;
 - e) placing said stylette in said needle-holder of said holder;
 - f) grasping said holder by said handle;
 - g) placing said holder under the proximal end of said spinal needle so that CSF drips from said proximal end of said spinal needle into a first said open test tube;
 - h) determining when said first open test tube contains a sufficient amount of CSF;
 - i) shifting said holder so that CSF drips from said proximal end of said spinal needle into a second said open test tube;
 - j) determining when said second open test tube contains a sufficient amount of CSF;

- k) shifting said holder so that CSF drips from said proximal end of said spinal needle into a third said open test tube;
 - l) determining when said third open test tube contains a sufficient amount of CSF;
 - m) removing said stylette from said needle-holder;
 - n) replacing said stylette inside said spinal needle;
 - o) removing said spinal needle containing said stylette from the dural space;
 - p) placing said spinal needle containing said stylette into said needle-holder; and
 - q) closing said three open test tubes.
- 21) A spinal fluid collection system according to Claim 20 further comprising the steps of:
- a) placing a needle sleeve into said needle-holder of said holder; and
 - b) placing said spinal needle containing said stylette into said needle sleeve.
- 22) A spinal fluid collection system according to Claim 12 further comprising a sealed internally-sterile package sealing said holder.